

**Performance Task:** You are a reporter for the *Panther Times*. You have just read a nonfiction book about a topic that interests you and you want to publish an article about it in the school newspaper. You must complete the following tasks in order to publish a good article.

- Select and read a nonfiction book.
- Answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper. You will use this basic information to create an outline.
- You will use this information to write a news article about your topic. You must take on the perspective of a reporter and make your article something that people will want to read.
- You will be shown in class how to put your article in a column(s).
- You attended a lesson in the library to learn how to cite your sources. You will need to cite your nonfiction book using a Works Cited page.
- You will cite all of the sources you used in the article. The main source should be the book you selected; however, you will also include a website. You will use the **MLA format** to cite your sources. The following website will help you with citing your sources: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource>  
You will need to **go to MLA and then Works Cited Page: Books**
- You may include one small image if you believe it will enhance the article. However, it is not required, or necessary.
- You will be required to use a direct quote from your book in your article. We will discuss how to do this in class. There is a page on Purdue OWL that will help you with this as well. It is labeled **In-Text Citations**.

A newspaper article has all of the important information in the opening paragraph. This information includes **who, what, when, where, why** and **how**. It is written this way because most people do not read an entire newspaper article all the way through.

**A newspaper article contains five (5) parts:**

**Headline:** This is a short, attention-getting statement about the event. (Title)

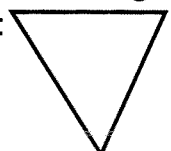
**Byline:** This tells who wrote the story.

**Lead:** This has ALL the who, what, when, where, why and how in it. A writer must find the answers to these questions and write them into the opening sentence(s) of the article. **(Intro)**

**Explanation:** After the lead paragraph has been written, the writer must decide what other facts or details the reader might want to know. The writer must make sure that he/she has enough information to answer any important questions a reader might have after reading the headline and the lead paragraph. This section can also include direct quotes from witnesses or bystanders. **(3 paragraphs)**

**Additional Information:** This information is the least important. Thus, if the news article is too long for the space it needs to fill, it can be shortened without rewriting any other part. This part can include information about a similar event. **HINT:**

**(Conclusion)**



## How to Make and Use an Essay Outline

An essay outline is probably the most important friend you will have while writing your essay. It is the scaffolding of your paper and the skeleton of your ideas. It is the framework by which you will write a killer essay. And frankly, it is difficult to write one without an outline.

When you begin writing an essay outline, use the following model as a guide:

### **I. INTRODUCTION:**

Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_

### **STATE YOUR PURPOSE**

### **II. BODY PARAGRAPH 1:**

Transition/Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

### **III. BODY PARAGRAPH II:**

Transition/Topic Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

### **IV. BODY PARAGRAPH III:**

Transition/Opening Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

### **V. CONCLUSION:**

Reconfirmed Thesis: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Tie everything together and finish strong!**

If you use this rough guide and fill in the blanks as you are researching your essay, you will find writing the essay so simple. You have all you need in front of you. It is researched and organized. All you have to do now is fill in the blanks with transition words, details, and smooth language.